

EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE IN
THE JAPAN CHRONICLE OF JULY 19, 1931*Repeated*

THE KOREAN AFFAIR

ENDEAVOUR TO SETTLE IT AT MUKDEN

According to the Asahi, Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Consul-General at Mukden, interviewed General Chang Hsueh-liang at Mukden during the latter's illness, on the 16th instant, and proposed the opening of negotiations for the cessation of the prosecution of Korean peasants in Manchuria and for the establishment of the right of residence for these Koreans. He expressed the wish of his home Government for the conclusion of a provisional agreement for the settlement of these matters. He further suggested that in view of the local nature of the issues, negotiations should take place between the Japanese authorities and the local Chinese authorities. He had no objection to the basic terms of negotiation being formulated by the Chinese side.

In reply, General Chang Tso-hsiang assured the Japanese Consul-General that the Chinese authorities share the wish of the Japanese Government for a speedy opening of parleys and that he had had repeated consultations with General Chang Hsueh-liang on the matter. The Mukden authorities also agreed with Japan in the view that these issues should be settled locally. He nevertheless stated that the regular negotiations should be deferred until the recovery of General Chang Hsueh-liang from his present illness.

Mr. Hayashi further informed General Chang that, not in any way affected by the recent unhappy incidents, the Japanese Government is determined to adhere to its policy of disposing of all issues pending between the two countries in the spirit of justice and peace.

In consequence of this interview, it is expected that informal negotiations will be opened shortly between Mr. Ishii, the Japanese Consul-General at Kirin, and Mr. Chung, the Chinese foreign commissioner at Harbin. In these parleys, measures for the settlement of the Wanpaoshan affair will first be discussed and then debate on other issues will be proceeded with.